



COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

SIXTH FLOOR
PRUDENTIAL BUILDING
195 NORTH TERRACE
ADELAIDE

CEREAL HARVEST ESTIMATES

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SEASON 1963-64

The information given in this bulletin is based on reports from 4,900 farmers whose crops exceed 50 per cent of the cereals grown in the State.

AREAS AND YIELDS (SUMMARY)

Reports last March indicated that farmers intended to sow approximately 2,804,000 acres of wheat, 1,182,000 acres of barley, and 1,081,000 acres of oats. The latest estimate of areas actually sown is 2,886,000 acres to wheat - a slight increase over the intended area, 1,157,000 acres to barley - a small decrease on that intended, and 912,000 acres to oats - approximately 84 per cent of that intended.

The estimated yields of wheat, barley, and oats in the 1963-64 harvest are 53,658,000 bushels of wheat at an average of 19.30 bushels per acre, 25,157,000 bushels of barley at an average of 22.54 bushels per acre, and 9,451,000 bushels of oats at an average of 18.28 bushels per acre. The estimated yield of wheat is a record in South Australia and is nearly 5.6 million bushels greater than the previous record yield of 48 million bushels in 1931-32.

The estimated total yield of wheat, barley and oats in 1963-64 is 88,266,000 bushels, 26,152,000 bushels more than the yield of 62,114,000 bushels in 1962-63 but 11,841,000 bushels less than the record yield of 100,107,000 bushels in 1960-61.

Estimates indicate that yields per acre of wheat and barley in 1963-64 are approximately two bushels higher than the averages of 17.27 bushels for wheat and 20.97 for barley obtained during the ten seasons 1953-54 to 1962-63 inclusive. The yield per acre of oats is nearly three bushels higher than the ten year average of 15.46.

TABLE 1 - ESTIMATED CEREAL HARVEST : SOUTH AUSTRALIA 1963-64.

Crop	Area		Yield	
	Total Sown	Sown for Grain	Total	Per Acre
	'000 Acres		'000 Bushels	Bushels
Wheat	2,886	2,780	53,658	19.30
Barley	1,157	1,116	25,157	22.54
Oats	912	517	9,451	18.28
Field Peas	31	29	514	17.72
			'000 Tons	Tons
Cereal Hay	178	-	261	1.47

SEASONAL CONDITIONS

Good rains over most of the State late in April and during May provided one of the best openings to the season that the State has experienced. The preliminary estimate of average rainfall over agricultural areas for the first three months of the growing season (April to June 1963) is 7.75 inches. Continuing rains in June and July made conditions excessively wet and prevented seeding in some heavier soil districts. A fine dry spell in August enabled practically all seeding to be completed and some areas affected by wet conditions were seeded for a second time.

Very dry conditions early in November with high temperatures and strong winds caused some loss of grain in barley and oat crops. A number of districts showed a high percentage of mottled wheat and isolated areas were slightly affected by rust.

Preliminary figures for average rainfall over agricultural areas for the period April - November 1963 total 15.10 inches. For the same period, the mean for 58 years ended 1962 is 12.72 inches.

CEREAL HARVESTS 1959-60 to 1963-64

Tables 2 to 5 show details of the estimated harvest for crops of wheat, barley, oats, and hay, for 1963-64 compared with the actual harvests for the four previous seasons.

WHEAT

The estimated area sown to wheat for grain for the 1963-64 season (2,780,000 acres) is the largest since the 1938-39 season when 3,080,000 acres were sown. The estimated crop of 53,658,000 bushels is 5,565,000 bushels greater than the previous record of 48,093,000 bushels in 1931-32 when 4,071,000 acres were harvested. The estimated yield per acre in 1963-64 is 19.30 bushels which is 7.49 bushels higher than the average yield of 11.81 bushels in 1931-32.

TABLE 2 - WHEAT: AREA AND PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	ESTIMATE 1963-64
Total Area Sown	'000 Acres	1,605	2,027	2,270	2,645	2,886
Area Sown for Grain	'000 Acres	1,549	1,969	2,229	2,595	2,780
Yield	'000 Bushels	11,929	46,396	33,854	38,339	53,658
Yield per Acre	Bushels	7.70	23.56	15.19	14.77	19.30

BARLEY

The estimated area sown to barley for grain for the 1963-64 season is, with the exception of the previous year, the smallest since 1955-56 when the area sown was 1,042,000 acres and the yield was 24,598,000 bushels. The yield per acre in 1963-64, estimated at 22.54 bushels, is 1.57 bushels higher than the average of 20.97 for the ten previous seasons.

TABLE 3 - BARLEY: AREA AND PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	ESTIMATE 1963-64
Total Area Sown	'000 Acres	1,326	1,588	1,294	1,088	1,157
Area Sown for Grain	'000 Acres	1,290	1,556	1,271	1,053	1,116
Yield	'000 Bushels	11,857	42,233	21,292	18,005	25,157
Yield per Acre	Bushels	9.19	27.15	16.75	17.10	22.54

OATS

The estimated area of oats sown for grain for the 1963-64 season (517,000 acres) is a record but the yield of 9,451,000 bushels is 2,541,000 bushels below the 1958-59 record yield of 11,992,000 bushels from 481,000 acres. The estimated yield per acre of 18.28 bushels is considerably lower than the average yields of 24.93 bushels in 1958-59 or 22.41 in 1960-61.

TABLE 4 - OATS: AREA AND PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	ESTIMATE 1963-64
Total Area Sown	'000 Acres	813	907	630	839	912
Area Sown for Grain	'000 Acres	505	512	324	416	517
Yield	'000 Bushels	2,504	11,478	4,391	5,770	9,451
Yield per Acre	Bushels	4.95	22.41	13.57	13.88	18.28

CEREAL HAY

Estimates given in this bulletin of the production of cereal hay relate only to areas specifically sown for the production of hay and the yield from those areas. Additional hay is cut from areas sown for grain, and in recent years the total quantity of cereal hay produced has proved to be considerably greater than the quantity shown as estimated in these bulletins.

TABLE 5 - CEREAL HAY: AREA AND PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	ESTIMATE 1963-64
Area Sown	'000 Acres	187	219	125	174	178
Yield	'000 Tons	130	352	156	216	261
Yield per Acre	Tons	0.69	1.61	1.26	1.24	1.47

FIELD PEAS

It is estimated that the area of field peas planted for grain during the 1963-64 season was 29,000 acres. The estimated yield is 514,000 bushels representing an average of 17.72 bushels per acre. In the 1962-63 season 392,000 bushels were obtained from 32,000 acres. Record production is 633,000 bushels (20.75 bushels per acre) achieved in 1956-57.

D.L.J. AITCHISON

DEPUTY COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

Commonwealth Bureau of Census & Statistics,
ADELAIDE. S.A.
23rd January 1964.

